PAN

PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF NUMISMATISTS

A non-profit organization promoting education in numismatics.

Designs on the Reverse of. . .

Our Most Beautiful Coins. . .page 11

CLARION

VOL.19, NO.3 (#66) DEC. 2002

WE NEED COINS & STAMPS
1-800-334-1163

If you are thinking of selling, we are buying.

There are a lot of ways for you to sell your coins and stamps. And many dealers willing to buy them. You obviously want to get the best price for your items and we believe we can help.

We have a large customer base around the country who buy from us through our various catalogs and national ads. We always need a good supply of new items to add to our inventory. Since we will retail your items we can pay a little more than most of our competitors. And sometimes a little on each coin can add up to a lot of extra money in your pocket.

So if you are not satisfied with the offers you received in your area where you live, or if you want to get a "little more" for your coins & stamps, we want to help you get more money and help ourselves get more coins for our inventory.

If you would like our offer for your item or items send to John Sarosi's attention at the address below. He will make a prompt cash offer. And if you need to make other arrangements, please call or write.

John Paul Sarosi, Inc.

Coins ✧ Stamps

106 Market St., Johnstown, PA 15901 814-535-5766 • *Fax* 814-535-2978

PAN

PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF NUMISMATISTS

A non-profit organization promoting education in numismatics.

Affiliated with the American Numismatic Assn. (C-10144) and Eastern States Numismatic Association (C-130)

P.O. Box 1079 Lancaster, PA 17608-1079

President
Kathy Sarosi

Regional Vice-Presidents
West: E. Tomlinson Fort
Central: John Paul Sarosi
S.Central: Kerry Wetterstrom
Northeast: Donald Hastie

Corresponding Secretary
Kerry Wetterstrom

Recording Secretary
E. Tomlinson Fort

Treasurer
Chester Trzcinski

Clarion Editor
Richard Duncan

Convention Staff
Donald Carlucci
Charles Culleiton
Patrick McBride
John Paul Sarosi
Kathy Sarosi
Chester Trzcinski
Eileen Kaminsky

Chairman-of-the-Board
Donald Carlucci

Board of Governors
Richard Cross
Richard Duncan
Wayne Homren
John Eshbach
Gerald Kochel
Charles Culleiton

Past Presidents
Samson Paguia
Loren Ecoff
Donald Carlucci
John Eshbach
Robert Matylewicz
Wayne Homren
Richard Cross

Honorary Members
Frank Gasparro (d)
Gilroy Roberts (d)

JOIN P.A.N. ON THE INTERNET!
http: // www.money.org/club_pan.html

Contents

President's Message.....4
PAN 25th Anniversary Medal.....6
Homren Named "Ambassador".....7
2002 PAN Convention.....8
"A Review of the Fleet".....10
Our Most Beautiful Coins
by Dick Duncan.....11
Outstanding Numismatist.....15
A Fantastic Forger
by Dick Duncan.....16
Show Calendar.....23
CLARION Ad Dates & Rates.....23
Recognition for Gasparro.....25
The Bird Man & the Half Dollar
by Thomas LaMarre ("Money Talks")....26

Advertisers

John Paul Sarosi, Johnstown,PA.....2 & 27
Ohio Valley Coin Show.....14
The Coin Store, Lower Burrell, PA.....15
Acropolis Coins, Morgantown, WV.....18
Alexander Brown, Cincinnati, OH.....22
Cross Coin Co., Fogelsville, PA.....22
Dave Kreamer, Boalsburg, PA.....22
Rahway Coins, Spotsylvania, VA.....23
J.E.L. Coins, Baltimore, MD.....23
Gerald Krupa, Lemont, PA.....23
Richard Campbell, Pittsburgh, PA.....23
Don Carlucci, Allison Park, PA.....24
ADMA Coin, Donnelsville, OH.....24
Steinmetz Coins, Lancaster, PA.....28

President's Message

Dear PAN Members:

We are just back from what proved to be the best PAN show to date. Record crowds, bourse dealers representing over a dozen states, and non-stop action the entire length of the show. The cool, brisk and rainy weather was a big plus in drawing the public in -- but we also spent the majority of our advertising budget on local ads, and we keep a huge, active mailing list of people who receive postcards two weeks prior to the show inviting them to a weekend of "fun, profit and education."

Speaking of education -- PAN's "Coins 4 Kids" meeting drew a record 73 Young Numismatists! We printed PAN auction money for this meeting, with each YN receiving $10 when they registered. And they could earn more "money" by correctly answering hobby questions. With their money, they then bid on the items in the auction. This proved to be a big hit with the kids. They caught on quickly, and the bidding was exciting as well as aggressive!

I heard that one of the YN's asked a question that even stumped our staff. Luckily, Cliff Mishler was in the audience and he could provide the correct information.

We were very pleased and excited to have Krause Publications choose the October PAN show as one of their stops on their 50th anniversary tour. The talk was detailed, informative and very interesting -- and they offered some very nice door prizes. Thanks again, Mr. Mishler, for selecting PAN . . . and also for speaking at our banquet on Saturday night.

At our PAN meeting on Friday afternoon, I slyly and jokingly stated that I had read, I think in one of the Krause publications (Mr. Mishler was in the back of the audience) that PAN was not only the #1 show on the East Coast but the #1 show in the country. (Needless to say, I am one of our biggest fans and cheerleaders.) And then, I stated that due to conflicts with the Central States Show in May of 2004 and 2005, we moved our tentative show dates. One of the members asked that if we are the #1 show in the country, how come we always have to move our dates? I answered that we are also the politest show in the country!

Seriously, many of you are connected in some way to your local shows -- and considering how many weekends there are in a year, there's no reason why dealers and the public have to choose which show to attend. They should be able to attend all of

the shows they want to. In other words, why not get rid of the stubborn-mule attitude: If you conflict with a show that has a lot of the same dealers, and is within a reasonable traveling distance, be the polite guys and move your show date! It doesn't really matter if your show was "first" or your show "has been on that weekend for years" -- if your create ill will between the dealers and the collectors in your area. Now, here are our PAN show dates for the next four years:

YEAR	MAY	OCTOBER
2003	9, 10, 11	24, 25, 26
2004	14, 15, 16	22, 23, 24
2005	13, 14, 15	21, 22, 23
2006	12, 13, 14	27, 28, 29

We are planning a big celebration for our 25th anniversary next year. We are striking medals commemorating this milestone in bronze, gold and silver. Information and a photo of both the obverse and the reverse are shown on the next page.

And in 2004, PAN will sponsor a 4-day public-admittance Summer Show. The dealer set-up will be on Thursday, public admission on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. This show immediately precedes the ANA Convention in downtown Pittsburgh. As far as I know, no other "pre-show" has tried a 4-day public show. But we are PAN. We take risks, and are always willing to try something new. Besides -- the dealers asked for it!

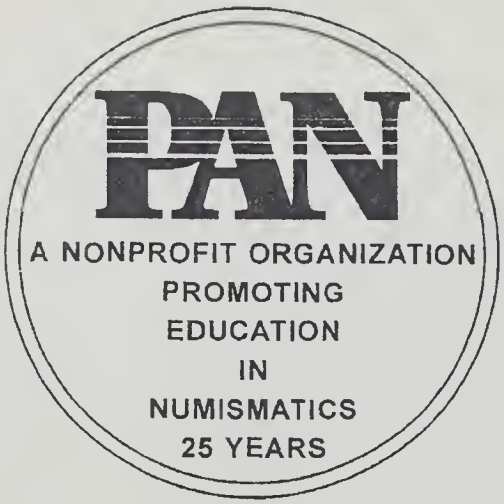
PAN Summer Show:	August 13, 14, 15, 16, 2004
ANA Show in Pgh:	August 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 2004

We hope you will try to attend both. Collectors -- with the ANA coming to town, you will have a great opportunity to meet some of the country's other largest dealers, view some of the most expensive coins you would ever hope to see, and if you're lucky, add that special purchase to your collection at just the right price.

Coin Shows -- bringing the dealer and collector together. Isn't that what it's really all about?

Happy Collecting!

Kathy Sarosi, President



PAN 25th Anniversary Medals

Beginning on March 1, 2003, medallions with the designs shown here will be available for ordering, in gold, silver and bronze. The medals are the size of classic silver dollars (39 mm or 1-1/2" diameter), approx. 1 ounce.

The gold medals will be available only in a three-piece set -- which includes one gold, one silver and one bronze medal -- and must be ordered and paid by August 31, 2003. (They will be delivered after the October, 2003 PAN Convention).

All medals may be ordered by mail, or at the May and October, 2003 PAN shows. Prices are:

Bronze (in a poly bag)	$5. plus $1 for shipping
Silver (1 oz, in custom capsule and velvet hinged box)	$20. plus $4 shipping
Gold (in 3-piece set, with silver and bronze medals, in custom capsules & 3-hole box)	$500. (no charge for shipping)

Make check payable to "PAN." Order at PAN shows, or via mail from: Chester Trzcinski, 5559 Foxhall Ct, Frederick, MD 21703.

Wayne Homren named "Ambassador"

Wayne K. Homren, Board Member of PAN, received the prestigious *Numismatic News Ambassador Award* at PAN's annual banquet, held Saturday, October 26 during the Fall Convention of the Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists.

The award was presented by Clifford Mishler, representative of Krause Publications.

Homren is currently Editor of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society's newsletter, *The Asylum*. He has held many offices in several numismatic organizations as an active hobbyist for the past 30 years. These include President of PAN, Vice-President of NBS, and Chairman of the American Numismatic Association's Numismatic Information Network Committee.

He has recently been named Chairman of the 2004 ANA Convention, which will be held in Pittsburgh.

A dealer in numismatic literature, Homren also exhibits and serves as a speaker at collector shows and clubs in many areas -- locally, in Pennsylvania, and nationally.

The Numismatic Ambassador Award, first presented in 1974, honors individuals who selflessly work to promote the organized hobby. Recipients are selected by past honorees, although nominations may be submitted by anybody.

Wayne Homren (right) receives the Numismatic Ambassador Award at the PAN banquet from Clifford Mishler of Krause Publications.

Upon receiving this honor, Wayne Homren joins the distinguished company of a small number of other PAN members who were previously named Numismatic Ambassadors, including John Eshbach, Gerald Kochel, Sam Deep, Kerry Wetterstrom, Nelson Aspen, Tom Sebring, and Ed Quagliana.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

2002 PAN Convention

Our PAN shows continue to be very successful. The latest PAN Convention (October 25-27, 2002) had over 120 dealer tables - with dealers coming from many states - and attendance was again very strong.

Dealers love the strong business - and special attention they get. And the general public certainly appreciates the wide range of outstanding dealers - covering all facets of numismatics - that they always find at PAN Conventions.

Pictured holding Gilroy Roberts Award is Clifford Mishler, with (from left) Don Carlucci, PAN Pres. Kathy Sarosi and John Eshbach.

A special attraction was Clifford Mishler discussing the 50 years of groundbreaking in the hobby by *Numismatic News* and its founder, Chester Krause.

Numismatic Education Awards

At the Saturday evening banquet, a major recognition went to both Clifford Mishler and Chester Krause -- PAN's impressive Gilroy Roberts Award for "Excellence in Numismatic Education" Unfortunately, Mr. Krause was unable to attend, so Mr. Mishler accepted for both.

"Coins For Kids"

Once again, a very popular feature was the "Coins for Kids" program, held for two hours on Saturday afternoon. The meeting room was crowded with about 100 youngsters and their parents. And, as usual, there was an informative educational program plus many coins and lots of numismatic literature given out to the young people.

Exhibits

There were also many outstanding exhibits. The winners: John Eshbach's "Participation Medals of Olympic Games" won Best of Show; Second Place went to Sam Deep for his "Selected Exonumia of Higher Education;"

Wayne Homren's "Numismatic Literature of Pittsburgh" earned Third Place; and Ray Dillard's New York World's Fair elongate exhibit won fourth.

People's Choice

The "People's Choice" winner was Sam Deep, with his "Selected Exonumia of Higher Education."

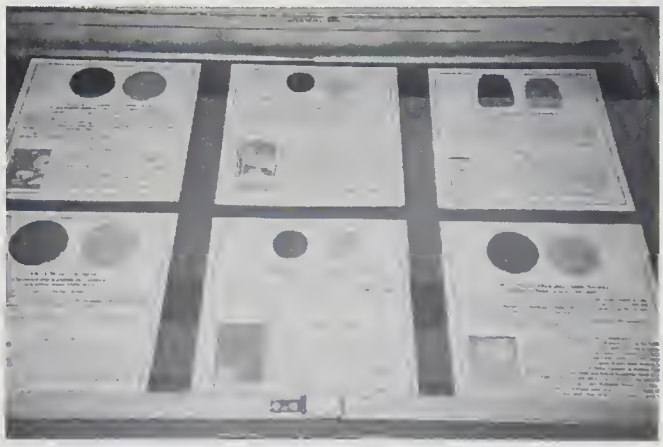
Other fine exhibits shown included: Capped Bust Half-Dollars, by Bill Cowburn; Rare Patterns of Sri Lanka, by Kavan Ratuatunge; 12 Years of PAN Elongates, by Josh Wadsworth; "Our Most Beautiful Coins" (St. Gaudens gold pieces), by Dick Duncan; and "George Washington Inaugural Bicentennial Medal," by John Eshbach.

Now, we're all looking forward to the many attractions at the next PAN Show - May 9-11, 2003, in Monroeville.

John Eshbach (right) receives "Best of Show' award from the Chief Judge Kerry Wetterstrom.

Here is a snapshot taken at the crowded "Coins 4 Kids" program.

Below are two of the exhibit cases in John Eshbach's Best of Show display of Participation Medals of the Winter Olympic Games.



"A Review of the Fleet"

The above $2 Federal Reserve Bank Note, 1918 series, pictures a World War I American battleship.

It reminds us of the time when "Britannia Ruled the Waves," and their ruling monarch would hold a "Review of the Fleet." That custom became a tradition with King George III in 1773.

By the time of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897, it had become perhaps the most awe-inspiring military spectacle in the world. The great squadron, black-hulled with yellow funnels, lay anchored in three lines, stretching out for seven miles.

There were 173 ships in all, with 50 battleships, each one dressed in a rainbow of colors. Their pine decks were scrubbed, with brass bells, studs and rails gleaming in the sun.

In 1914, King George V presided over the review, and Churchill stated that it constituted the greatest assemblage of naval power to be witnessed in the history of the world. With His Majesty, Prince Albert (later to be King George VI), he watched the grand armada put to sea, taking over six hours to pass before the king.

On June 27 of this year, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth reviewed the fleet during her jubilee year. This time, there were only five warships tied at dockside, including the 17-year-old Ark Royal carrier, a 28-year-old destroyer and three frigates. A far cry from previous years. In 1953, her coronation year, there were 197 warships plus 13 Commonwealth warships, 16 foreign warships and many merchant navy ships. In 1977, her Silver Jubilee year, 112 ships of the Royal Navy and 60 from Allied fleets passed in review.

The grand fleet has been decommissioned, sold for scrap or in drydock for repairs. It was not a great "Golden Jubilee." No longer can Britain consider herself a great navel power. Perhaps the world has seen the last "Review of the Fleet," and the Queen can only render a somber smile and remember the vanishing British navy.

Thanks to Ray Dalby for this article, which appeared in a recent publication of the Currency Club of Chester County.

Our Most Beautiful Coins

by Dick Duncan

It was almost exactly 100 years ago - 1905 - when President Theodore Roosevelt decided that the coinage of the United States needed to be substantially improved. In fact, Roosevelt felt that designs on U.S. coinage were "atrociously hideous."

Created by Saint-Gaudens

An outstanding sculptor of the time, Augustus Saint-Gaudens, was asked by the President to take on the job (although Mint Engraver Charles Barber didn't approve of going outside the Mint for coinage designs). The President's idea was to create coins in the classical Greek tradition.

The result was two gold coins that have been acclaimed by many people as the most beautiful coins issued in the history of our country.

$20 Gold Piece (1907-33)

Unfortunately, Saint-Gaudens did not live to see the final production of his masterpiece artistry. On the other hand, he probably would not have appreciated the final result -- which had subtle changes by Charles Barber, plus a much lower relief.

As first issued, the $20 gold piece had very high relief as well as Roman numerals for the 1907 date (as shown above). Later that same year, the surface was lowered -- which meant that the coins would stack easier -- and the date was changed to Arabic numerals.

No Motto

The coin pictures Miss Liberty in flowing robes, striding forward and carrying a torch in one hand, and an olive branch in the other. At the left, very small, is the Capitol Building -- the first time a building appeared on our coins. The reverse shows an eagle in flight.

Theodore Roosevelt was a very religious man, and in his opinion the

appearance of God's name on coins amounted to blasphemy. So, the 1907 Double Eagle did not show the motto. Congress disagreed, however, and beginning in 1908, every coin included the motto, "In God We Trust."

In March, 1933, an order by then President Franklin D. Roosevelt took the U.S. off the gold standard and prevented any further release of gold coins from the mints. This was in the midst of the "Great Depresssion," and the President's action was intended to help our nation's struggling economy.

Although eagles ($10 gold coins) were legally issued from Philadelphia in January and February, double eagles ($20 pieces) were not -- although an unknown number did get out of the mint.

Record Sale

One of those illegally-issued $20 gold pieces dated 1933 was sold to King Farouk of Egypt -- and, in error the U.S. government approved its export to Egypt. Just last year, the same coin reappeared, and the United States monetized it -- meaning it was the only 1933 Double Eagle that could legally be owned by a private citizen.

This was the coin that sold at auction on July 30, 2002, at Sotheby's Auction house, just prior to the ANA Convention in New York City. The bidding began at $2,500,000, with each bid rising by $100,000. It was agreed that the U.S. government would receive half of the total auction price.

$7.6 Million

The final bid was $6,600,000 -- but added to that was a 15% premium required by the auction house. As reported in the last issue of this magazine -- and in publications everywhere -- the record total paid by the winning bidder for that 1933 $20 gold piece was $7,590,020. (The final $20 was added, as required by the U.S. government, because that's the coin's actual face value.)

The winning bid was placed by telephone, and the bidder's name was not revealed.

Although the name of the winning bidder had still not been revealed as this issue of the *Clarion* went to press, the good news is that the public will be able to view the coin on exhibit at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, a presentation made possible in cooperation with the American Numismatic Society.

The exhibit, entitled, "Drachmas, Doubloons and Dollars; the History of Money," is scheduled to be open to the public for the next four years -- until 2007.

$10 Gold Piece (1907-33)

For the smaller $10 coin, it was decided by Saint-Gaudens that a full figure would be too small. Thus, the sculptor did the face of Miss Liberty -- reportedly inspired by Nike, or Wingless Victory on the Temple of Zeus at Pergamon.

The face is not intended to be that of an American Indian, but President Theodore Roosevelt insisted on the addition of the Indian war bonnet -- apparently to give the coin design a distinctively American character.

Stars on the Edge

The reverse of the coin pictures a majestic standing eagle. The edge of the coin shows 46 stars (rather than a reeded or lettered edge), with a star for each state in the union at that time. The number of stars was changed to 48 after 1911., recognizing the admission of New Mexico and Arizona as states.

As on the design for the $20 gold piece, the motto did not appear -- because of the President's religious beliefs. As on the $20 coin, the use of the diety's name would amount to blasphemy, Roosevelt reasoned -- because coins could be dropped, stepped on, or used for illegal purposes, etc. But the same as with the $20 coin, Congress disagreed with the President's reasoning, and "In God We Trust" was added beginning in 1908.

"Most Beautiful"

Again, as with the $20 gold design, the final $10 gold coins, as issued, were altered slightly by Mint Engraver Charles Barber -- primarily reducing the relief so the coins could be stacked easier.

It is too bad that Augustus Saint-Gaudens did not live to see his coins in circulation -- because even now, almost 100 years later, they are hailed as our most beautiful coins.

OHIO VALLEY Coin ASSOCIATION

ANA 30475 — PENN-OHIO

P. O. BOX 451
STEUBENVILLE, OHIO 43952

OHIO VALLEY COIN ASSOCIATION'S 54TH COIN SHOW

SAT. & SUN.

FEB. 22 & 23, 2003

10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

SAINT FLORIAN HALL

WINTERSVILLE, OHIO

** LOCATED WEST OF STEUBENVILLE, OH AT 286 LURAY DRIVE OFF RT. 43 BEHIND THE WINTERSVILLE FIRE DEPT. LOOK FOR THE WINTER DRIVE-IN SIGN.

COINS, PAPER MONEY, MEDALS,

TOKENS, & COIN SUPPLIES.

BUY!! SELL!! TRADE!!

** CALL BOB AT 740-264-7081 OR TERRY AT 740-537-4798 FOR INFORMATION.

Outstanding Numismatist

Chris Pilliod, Red Rose Coin Club, has just been named the "Outstanding Numismatist in Central Pennsylvania."

The award was presented at the annual banquet of the Red Rose Coin Club on November 21 in Lancaster. Initiated by the Harrisburg Coin Club in 1966 (and named for deceased member, James Wagner, an outstanding numismatist), the award has been presented annually since 1966.

Also nominated for the award by clubs in the Central Pennsylvania area were Mary Baum, Conrad Weiser Coin Club; and Lester White, Waynesboro Coin Club.

Awards Chairman Dick Duncan said each of the nominees was worthy of the award, but Pilliod's background is truly outstanding.

With a college degree in metallurgy, he's been researching and writing in the field of numismatics for over 20 years - specializing in the minting process as well as counterfeit detection and error collecting.

Chris Pilliod (left) received traveling trophy and a plaque - which he keeps - from Red Rose President Charles Reed.

Articles written by Pilliod have appeared in the ANA publication, *The Numismatist, Coin World and Numismatic News*, as well as publications of several specialty clubs such as Penny-Wise, The Barber Collector's Society, the Liberty Seated Coin Club and the Fly-In Club (focusing on Flying Eagle and Indian Cents). He is currently the President of the Fly-In Club.

His article, "The Forgotten Coin of the *S.S. Central America*" this year won the 2002 writing contest held by Heritage Numismatic Auctions of Dallas, TX, and that earned him a check for $5,000.

* *

THE COIN STORE
U.S. and World Coins,
Paper Money,
Supplies and Appraisals
(724) 339-0815

RICH BORLAND—Collector/Dealer

Hours: Tues. thru Fri., 10:30 to 4:30
Saturday, 10:30 to 2:30
Thurs. Eve., 6:00 to 8:30

2603 Leechburg Road
Lower Burrell, PA 15068
Closed: Sunday and Monday

A Fantastic Forger

by Dick Duncan

This is not fiction. It's a true story - and it's also very recent -- although it includes many elements you would swear are fictional.

The name of the master forger is Mark Hoffman, and he is presently serving time in jail.

A Mormon

Hoffman grew up in Utah -- in a family and society steeped in the Church of Latter Day Saints (Mormons). Eventually, however, he came to disagree with many of the Mormon teachings. In fact, his career in forging and counterfeiting led him to produce several fake documents that cast a bad light on the church's revered founder, Joseph Smith. In turn, this caused the church to expend prodigious amounts of time and money, trying to suppress his "revelations."

"A Sense of Power"

At one time, Hoffman said that deceiving people gave him a sense of power. More than greed, this feeling of power gave him the chance (according to his thinking) to shape and change history. And, in many cases, his forgeries found willing buyers because they told stories that these people wanted to hear. Often, that is the case with an item that's not genuine. If those evaluating it prefer to believe it, then they're not likely to try very hard to evaluate it or unmask its true identity.

Fascination with Tricks

Early in his childhood, Mark became became interested in magic and card tricks. His parents disapproved of playing cards, so he would spend hours at the house of a cousin, Mike Wooley, playing cards with him and his grandmother.

On one occasion, Mark kept winning hand after hand. His cousin suspected some kind of cheating, but he could not figure it out. Some time later, Mark Hoffman said that he had won by seeing the cards reflected in his own thumbnail!

Severe Burns

He also enjoyed playing with chemistry as well as fireworks. At age 12, playing with chemicals, his shirt caught fire. He was rushed to the hospital with severe burns on his neck. This required skin grafts, and left him with scars for life.

While recovering, Mark began collecting historic Mormon coins and at age 14. made a discovery that affected his entire future.

He experimented with electroplating -- covering a coin with a thin layer of another type of metal. Then, he tried altering a mint mark. He found he was good at this -- and to his amazement, he realized that changing a "c" to a "d" could transform an ordinary coin into one worth thousands of dollars.

Altering Coins

He took his newly-transformed coin to a local coin dealer, who sent it on to the U.S. Treasury Department for an evaluation. It came back with the opinion that it was genuine. For a 14 year old boy, this was truly a life-transforming event.

He went on to produce or alter many more coins -- collected a substantial amount of money with this scheme.

More frequently, however, his work involved printed materials.

"Finding" Valuable Documents

He became a book collector and a document dealer. He would carefully research and work on items that he knew would be desirable to a collector.

Over a five-year period, Hoffman "found" nearly 450 Mormon documents -- and then he would sell them to the Church of Latter Day Saints for hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Other competing document dealers couldn't believe his rare good fortune in finding so many old items of great value. But, of course, virtually all of them had been created by Hoffman -- and, in most cases, added to the history of the Mormon church (mostly to its detriment).

The Science of Handwriting

His success is remarkable when you consider that the handwriting of each one of us is truly unique.

Many factors shape our individual handwriting -- where we were born, our intelligence, age, our grip, the shape and size of our fingers, where we were taught to write -- and even the instrument we used when first learning to write. We use over a dozen muscles in our hands and arms when writing.

Just watching a group of children writing makes it clear that each one works in a very different way.

One of the few things that does <u>not</u> affect our writing is gender. Men and women rarely show discernible differences in their writing.

His Secret

With so many variables, how could Mark Hoffman so closely mimic so many styles and types of writing?

One key element: He learned methods of self-hypnosis. After

BUYING & SELLING

ICTA

ANACS

PCGS PROFESSIONAL COIN GRADING SERVICE AUTHORIZED DEALER

NGC AUTHORIZED MEMBER/DEALER

Member of CoinNet™

Gold and Silver Coins

Gold and Diamond Jewelry

Commemoratives and Rare Coins

Scrap Marked Gold and Platinum

Pocket and Antique Wrist Watches

Sterling Flatware and Holloware

Franklin Mint Items • Hummels • Currency

FREE APPRAISALS!

MORGANTOWN'S OLDEST FULL TIME RARE COIN DEALER

(304) 296-2931

Life Member of American Numismatic Assn., Central States Numis. Society, Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists, Michigan State Numis. Assn., Mountaineer Coin Club, Stonewall Jackson Coin Club, Member of Florida United Numismatists

* IN BUSINESS SINCE 1965 *

ACROPOLIS COINS & JEWELRY

495 High St. • Morgantown, WV • Across from BB&T Bank

much practice, he gained a phenomenal amount of control over his mind and emotions.

In fact, he could put himself into a trance before we went into a meeting where he knew he would have to lie. In the same way, he learned to defeat a lie detector test.

A Rare Dickinson Poem!

Among his "successes," he supposedly discovered an unknown poem by the famous poet, Emily Dickinson.

Actually, he had carefully researched Dickinson to determine her style of poetry as well as her handwriting. Next, he made sure he used paper of the right type and age. Then, after deciding the year of the poem he would "discover," he used the proper type of pen and ink to create his "rare find."

Confounding Sotheby's

This was one of several of his "masterpieces" that came up for auction at the famous auction house, Sotheby's. Although Sotheby's has many very learned researchers and historians, they were not equal to the remarkable talents of Mark Hoffman.

In fact, after being burned once or twice, Sotheby's was one of several firms that shied away from documents that passed through the hands of Mark Hoffman. Items such as this "newly-discovered" Emily Dickinson poem would sell for many thousands of dollars.

"The Oath of a Freeman"

While looking through an auction catalog, Hoffman saw a reference to original printed editions of works by Shakespeare -- selling for several hundred thousand dollars. If such items ware so valuable in England, he reasoned, wouldn't high value also go to the first documents printed in this country?

Thus, he tracked down the history of "The Oath of a Freeman," printed on the first press brought to North America in the 1600s.

A great many bibliophiles dreamed of uncovering this document in an attic or flea market. Hoffman did his research thoroughly, and then approached Justin Schiller of New York City, a children's book dealer, saying he had uncovered a paper entitled "The Oath of a Freeman" in a stack of papers he had recently purchased.

Checking an Expert

Schiller knew nothing about this rarity, so he called a wealthy collector from Ardsley, New York, named Zinman, who was assembling a collection of early printed Americana. Zinman quickly jumped into his car and drove to New York City. At dinner with Hoffman and

Schiller, Zinman said the Oath, assuming it was genuine, would be worth a million dollars. Hoffman's heart undoubtedly took a jump, but he remained impassive in his demeanor.

Experience had taught Hoffman that he didn't need to try to convince people of a document's authenticity. If it was good enough, they would convince themselves.

The Library of Congress

Before it was purchased, however, the Oath needed extensive testing, which was done at the Conservation and Testing Offices of the U. S. Library of Congress. It was subjected to x-rays and ultraviolet light, and pored over to determine any questionable signs.

Slight variations in the type were ascribed to variations common to the first printing press and its hand-cut letters. The final report from the Library of Congress said:

"No evidence has been revealed that would contravene a mid-seventeenth century date for the broadside." And, as a result of Hoffman's careful selection of paper, it later passed a carbon 14 dating test.

On hearing the favorable reports, Schiller and Hoffman turned up the heat on the Library of Congress, leaking the rumor that an investment group had been formed to market the Oath to private corporations for $3 million. The Library of Congress had a month to decide whether to buy it for $1.5 million.

A Questionable History

The Library of Congress wanted more provenance, however -- the history of where it came from, and who had owned it before the present owners. This proved a stumbling block. . .and then, getting wind of Hoffman's history (including a reputation for bouncing checks), the Library of Congress returned the document. A later offer from the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, MA was for $250,000.

A Pyramid Scheme

Later, Hoffman offered investments in rare book and manuscript transactions, offering as collateral the imminent sale of The Oath of the Freeman. Subsequently, Mark Hoffman reported reselling items for substantial profits, and paying dividends -- a pyramid or Ponzi-type of scheme based on reported profits on fictional sales.

Eventually, the bubble was bound to burst. Two investors tracked down Hoffman to his home in Salt Lake City, and demanded repayment of their monies. Hoffman tried to put them off ("I'll have the money tomorrow."), but they insisted on going with Mark Hoffman to his

bank, where his account didn't contain enough money. He went on -- trailed by the two investors -- to a coin dealer and a book dealer, trying to borrow money, but he already owed money to them.

Trying to Squirm Out

At an interrogation at his home that evening, Hoffman said he had already sent substantial amounts of money to New York to buy valuable items. But weeks passed without repayment, and Hoffman's world was falling apart.

His investors forced him to sign promissory notes -- plus very large daily penalties if he defaulted on the repayment schedule -- and they threatened to go to the police.

His debts were so great by this time that the $250,000 offered for the Oath by the American Antiquarian Society wasn't nearly enough -- so he refused that offer.

Priceless Papyrus

This was 1985. One collection Hoffman was trying to acquire contained a prized "piece of papyrus plucked from the bosom of an Egyptian mummy." Before he could get his hands on the actual item, he phoned a Boston document dealer, Kenneth Rendell, asking if he had any papyrus for sale. Rendell did, and sold Hoffman a piece measuring 9" by 24". Hoffman then cut this in two, mounting one 4" by 9" piece between two sheets of plexiglass, and gave it to Steve Christensen -- who expected to buy the collection for the Church of Latter Day Saints for a price of $185,000.

Christensen knew nothing of papyrus, so to check if it was genuine, he sought the advice of an expert -- who turned out to be Kenneth Rendell.

When Mark Hoffman learned that Rendell was flying from Boston to Salt Lake City to meet Christensen, he realized there was a very big chance of exposure -- and he saw only one way out.

Murder Plans

Hoffman constructed a pipe bomb, which he tested in the desert. Then, knowing the size of bomb needed, he made two more bombs. One he put in a garbage bag -- with a very delicate ignition device -- and placed it outside Christensen's office, so it would go off when picked up.

Knowing he would be an immediate suspect, he also placed a bomb outside the home of Christensen's business partner, Gary Sheets. Thus, it might be assumed the bomber was an unhappy customer of their business.

The second bomb did not kill Sheets, however. His wife arrived home

first, picked up the package, and was promptly killed.

Hoffman then made a third bomb, planning to use this one to "solve" another financial problem caused by his forgery schemes. This time, through careless handling of the package, it went off before could get it to the target location, and he himself was badly hurt. The blast tore off his clothes, opened a gaping hole in one knee, blew off a finger, and caused deep gashes in his head and chest. His years of pretending and deceiving were finally over.

More than 100 investigators -- local, state and national -- analyzed the evidence, and as a result, Mark Hoffman was sent to the Utah jail for life for his many crimes. The year was 1986. He remains in jail to this day. But, many of his forged documents are still undiscovered.

This information comes from a book, *The Poet and the Murderer*, by Simon Worrall.

****

Over 30 Years Experience
Buy - Sell - Trade - Appraise

Dave Kreamer
Coins & Currency

P.O. Box 617
Boalsburg, PA 16827

(814) 364-1963

****

ALEXANDER BROWN
1690 EAST KEMPER ROAD
CINCINNATI, OH 45246
800-899-4178 (513)772-4059
FAX (513)772-4696

BUYING & SELLING GOLD COINS
AMERICAN EAGLES, MAPLE LEAFS, KRUGERRANDS, PANDAS, KANGAROOS, SINGAPORE SERIES, US GOLD, PLATINUM COINS

****

RICHARD E. CROSS
(610) 285-2757

Life Member
PAN, SCC, WVCC

Member
ANA, EAC

CROSS COIN COMPANY

P.O. Box 548 • Fogelsville, PA 18051

DEALING IN QUALITY U.S. COINS AND CURRENCY

CLARION ADVTG. DATES & RATES
(now published 3 times a year)
AD DEADLINES: 2/1; 8/1; 11/1

AD RATES:	1 AD	3 Ads
Business Card	$10.	$25.
Quarter Page	15.	40.
Half Page	30.	80.
Full Page	50.	135.
Back Cover	65.	180.

Mail Ads to:
Dick Duncan, Editor
611 Fairway Drive
Lancaster, PA 17603

Rahway Coins
P O BOX 1078
SPOTSYLVANIA, VA 22553
LIFE MEMBER ANA~FUN~GSNA

BUY/ SELL U S COINS~CURRENCY
GOLD~ SILVER~ TYPE COINS
APPRAISALS~ESTATES
540-898-1657
GEORGE B. SHUPP

Early Type Appraisals
Jim Long
J.E.L. COINS
P.O. BOX 3003
BALTIMORE, MD 21229
LARGE CENTS A SPECIALTY
EAC 1687
ANA 56093
Phone (410) 674-9380
Fax (410) 674-0073

****

Gerald T. Krupa - Numismatist
Rare U.S. Coinage
Buy • Sell • Appraise

ANA: LM5222
P.O. Box 839
Lemont, PA 16851-0839
(814) 238-2988
Experience - Integrity - Service

Coins
ANA No. LM 883
Stamps
APS No. 60126

Richard A. Campbell
P.O. Box 25313
Pittsburgh, PA 15242
(412) 341-4522
Buy - Sell - Trade

Post Cards
Collection Appraisal

Show Calendar.

Dec. 14 - Allentown, PA - Allentown Coin & Stamp Club Show, Merchant's Sq. Mall, 12th & Vultee.

Feb. 1,2- Pittston, PA - Wyoming Valley C.C., Oblates of St. Joseph Seminary, Rte. 315.

Feb. 6-9 - Strasburg, PA - Stock, Bond & Currency Show, Strasburg Inn, Route 896.

Feb. 8,9 State College, PA- CenterC.C., Day's Inn Penn State.

Feb. 22 - Reading, PA - Daniel Boone C.C., Lincoln Park Fire Hall, 310 Fritztown Rd.

Feb. 22,23 - Wintersville, OH Ohio Valley C.C., Saint Florian Hall, 286 Luray Drive, off Rte. 43.

Mar. 2 - West Chester, PA -West Chester C.C., Holiday Inn, 934 S. High Street, off Rte. 202.

Mar. 8.9 - York, PA - York C.C., Springetts Fire Co., East Market St.

Mar. 8,9 - Indiana, PA - Best Western, 1545 Wayne Ave.

Mar.29,30 - Clarks Summit, PA - Scranton C.C., Ramada Inn

****

May 9, 10, 11- Monroeville, PA - PAN CONVENTION, Pittsburgh Expo Mart, Business Route 22 (PA Turnpike Exit 6).

****

WANTED!

*Western Pennsylvania
Numismatic Society Medals
*ANA Medals and Badges
*Autographs Wanted

Please write to:
Don Carlucci
2765 Shamrock Drive
Allison Park, PA 15101

****

R.O.M.A. COIN

**wishes to thank all of its
PAN customers
and hopes to serve you
in the future**

**Numismatist
Orv Detrick**

**P.O. Box 267
Donnelsville OH 45319
1- 937-882-6730**

****

Recognition for Gasparro

As reported in the last issue, Frank Gasparro (who passed away on September 29, 2001) was honored this year by the establishment of a Gasparro Memorial Scholarship Fund -- for students attending the Fleisher Art Memorial, where Mr. Gasparro was a student and later a teacher.

Frank Gasparro is remembered by numismatists as Chief Engraver at the U.S. Mint. Among his creations there was the Lincoln Memorial reverse of the Lincoln Cent -- a coin that's been in the pockets of virtually millions of people around the world.

On November 1, 2002, he was again honored in Philadelphia, where he had lived.

Historical Marker

A historical marker was dedicated at the home where he was born in 1909 -- fittingly, the year the Lincoln cent was first issued (and 1909 was the 100th anniversary of Lincoln's birth). An introduction was given by Thora Jacobson, director of the Fleisher Art School, and comments were also presented by Mint sculptor-engraver John Mercanti and by coin dealer Harry Forman. A reception followed the dedication, held at the Fleisher Art Memorial.

Dinner and Auction

In the evening of November 1, a dinner was held to honor Frank Gasparro and aid the scholarship -- held at Penns Landing Caterers.

Approximately 75 people attended the dinner. An additional 20 or 30 people had purchased tickets to support the event, but were unable to attend.

The dinner was followed by an auction of works by Gasparro as well a works honoring the sculptor. Harry Forman served as auctioneer. The dinner and auction raised about $4,000 for the Gasparro Scholarships. Anyone who wishes to contribute may send checks to:

Frank Gasparro Memorial Fund
c/o The Madison Bank
8000 Veree Road
Philadelphia, PA 19111

****

MONEY TALKS: The Numismatic Radio Show

MONEY TALKS is a one-minute radio spot produced by the A.N.A. in Colorado Springs. They run daily, and each covers a different topic related to coins, medals, tokens or paper money. It began on Public Radio in 1992, and now reaches more than 500 stations across the United States.

If you'd like to hear the show on your local airwaves, write to your public broadcasting station and request MONEY TALKS. It's provided free of charge. For info, contact: Education Director, American Numismatic Assn., 818 North Cascade Ave., Colo. Springs, CO 80903. (Phone (719) 632-2646)

This one was broadcast Oct. 9, 1998.

The Bird Man & Half Dollar

by Thomas LaMarre

He was considered the leading ornithologist of his time, and a dominant figure in furthering what one might call "bird art." But he found little accuracy or beauty in the eagle on a new half dollar.

Frank Chapman wrote books on ornithological subjects ranging from the Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America to The Economic Value of Birds to the State. He also started the magazine Bird Lore, which eventually was taken over by the National Audubon Society.

As curator of ornithology at the American Museum of Natural History, Chapman offered encouragement to many young artists. Among them was the great Francis Lee Jaques, who accompanied Chapman on some of his expeditions and was commissioned to paint the oval dome of the museum's hall of birds.

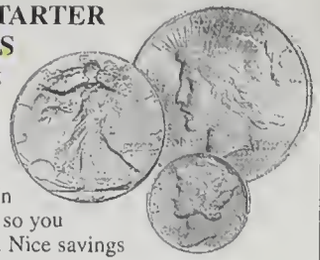
But Chapman cried "fowl" when a new half dollar was released in January, 1917. The "heads" side pictured Miss Liberty. The "tails" side showed an eagle, wings unfolded, fearless in spirit and conscious of his power. At least, that's how the Director of the Mint described the design.

One critic said the eagle appeared to be wearing overalls and tramping through hot tar. Chapman claimed the designer had made the eagle an earthly fowl, striding or marching on the ground like a turkey. . .and with as much dignity.

Chapman's criticism wasn't taken lightly. He had just completed a four-year biological survey of the Colombian Andes and received a gold medal for his report. But despite his standing in the scientific community, his comments about the eagle on the half dollar failed to bring about a change. Walking Liberty Half Dollars remained in production until 1947, two years after the "Bird Man" died.

This has been "Money Talks." Today's program was written by Thomas LaMarre and underwritten by Whitman Coin Products, a division of Golden Books, providing folders and albums for many popular coin series. "Money Talks" is a copyrighted production of the American Numismatic Association, 818 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903, 719/632-2646, ana @money. org.http: //www.money.org.

AFFORDABLE STARTER COLLECTOR SETS



Your choice of the following starter sets. All coins grade MS-60+ to MS-63 with nice strikes and surface qualities. Brilliant coins are selected for you. All sets are housed in complete set Dansco albums so you can add the rest of the series. Nice savings for a great beginning!

25-COIN UNCIRCULATED P-MINT MERCURY DIME SET

You receive one each:

1916 1917 1919 1920 1923 1924 1925 1926 1927
1928 1929 1930 1931 1934 1935 1936 1937 1938
1939 1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945

$375.00 includes Dansco album

14-COIN UNCIRCULATED P-MINT WALKING LIBERTY HALF SET

You receive one each:

1934 1935 1936 1937 1938 1939 1940
1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947

$375.00 includes Dansco album

10-COIN UNCIRCULATED P-MINT PEACE SILVER DOLLAR SET

You receive one each:

1921 1922 1923 1924 1925
1926 1927 1928 1934 1935

$425.00 includes Dansco album

NEAT GROUP OF 30S MERCS

Receive a mix of 1934-P; 1935-P; 1936-P; 1937-P; 1938-P; 1939-P Mercury dimes.

Choice original EF

10 coins for **$27.50**; 25 coins for **$62.50**

Choice brilliant AU

10 coins for **$42.50**; 25 coins for **$99.00**

While they last!

CH. BU+ MS-64 "YOUR CHOICE" MORGAN DOLLAR SPECIAL

Pleasing high end CHOICE BU++ at a fraction over MS-63 prices. All coins lustrous and brilliant with choice strikes for the date.

3 coins for **$103.50**

5 coins for **$170.00**

10 coins for **$330.00**

Pick from the following dates:

1879-S	1882-S	1885-P	1888-O	1898-P	1900-O
1880-S	1883-P	1885-O	1889-P	1898-O	1902-O
1881-S	1883-O	1886-P	1896-P	1899-O	1904-O
1882-P	1884-P	1887-P	1897-P	1900-P	1921-D
1882-O	1884-O	1888-P	1898-P		

Please list 2nd choices - it helps!

NICE EXTREMELY FINE COLLECTOR SETS

Gorgeous, original problem-free coins of quite popular series! Each housed in a Dansco album so you can complete the set – we give you a head start.

CH. EF 1934-1945 P D S Mercury dime set housed in album from 1916 ..... $135.00

CH. EF 1934-1947 P D S Walking Liberty half set housed in album from 1916 ..... $380.00

BRILLIANT UNCIRCULATED MORGAN DOLLAR ROLLS

Brilliant roll of twenty (20) pre-'21 Morgan silver dollars. Uncirculated coins grading MS-60+ to MS-62; nice mix of dates and mint marks. Sure to please!

SPECIALLY PRICED **$340.00** OR 2 for **$670.00**

CHOICE BU WALKING LIBERTY HALF SHORT SET

Twenty-coin set 1941-1947 P D S grading CHOICE BU MS-63. Hand-picked for luster, strike and overall eye-appeal. Brilliant coins are housed in a custom Dansco album.

SPECIALLY PRICED **$549.00**

GORGEOUS TONED 1949-D JEFFERSON NICKELS

From a most beautifully toned original roll. Vibrant pastel colors of blue, red, violet – some with a touch of green, some with a touch of gold. PERFECT for a toned type set

GEM BU MS 65 TONED **$10.00**

GEM BU+ MS-66 TONED **$17.50**

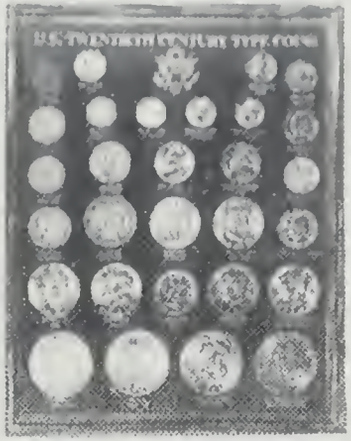
BUY IN BULK

All coins nice average circulated condition – with [illegible] major damage. [illegible] Mercury dime, [illegible] and Walking Liberty halves.

BAG of $10.00 face for $55.00

BAG of $25.00 face for $125.50

BAG of $100.00 face for $475.00



20TH CENTURY TYPE SET

Beautifully assembled type set of the twentieth century. Each set contains nineteen (19) Unc coins, four (4) AU/BU coins and six (6) VG/FINE or better coins — complete set of 29 coins. It would be hard to rebuild this set yourself at this special price. AND we do all the work for you!

$99.00

OR add $14.00 for the 3-coin Bicentennial set in 40% silver BU

TERMS OF SALE:

1. Payment terms: U.S. Post Office and American Express money orders shipped quickest. ALL OTHER CHECKS MUST CLEAR THREE WEEKS
2. We accept MasterCard, VISA and Discover. We need the issuing bank, bank's city and state, card number, expiration date. No credit cards on $20 gold pcs
3. PA residents add 6% sales tax.
4. **Postage and Handling Fees:** $3.00 on orders less than $500.00, orders over $500.00 shipped Postage Paid. Actual postage fees non-refundable
5. Guarantee: All items guaranteed genuine. All returns must be by mail. All returns must be postmarked within fifteen (15) days of receipt. Any attempted alterations or exemptions of above policy are null and void. Most items can be returned for any reason including grading. No return on bullion-related items. Grading 25 years experience. No warranty expressed or implied is made with respect to descriptions which can and do vary among grading experts. Please do compare our quality with coins you purchase elsewhere. Let us know if you can find comparable quality for less.
6. All returns must be in original holders, unopened and undamaged. All exchanges or returns are processed within 15 days. Coins removed from origianl holder, by you or another party, are not returnable for any reason.
7. Complete terms of sale available upon written request.

John Paul Sarosi, Inc.

106 MARKET STREET — JOHNSTOWN, PA 15901

SEND FOR FREE CATALOG

KATHY SAROSI
LM ANA 3178

JOHN PAUL SAROSI
LM ANA 2505

STORE HOURS:
Open 9 am to approx. 9 pm
Mon.-Fri., Sat. 10 am

TOLL FREE ORDER LINE 1-(800)-334-1163
1-(814) 535-5766 FAX 1-(814) 535-2978

We are *BUYING*

U.S. Gold Coins

- ★ U.S. Proof gold coins all dates.
- ★ Rare date circulated gold coins
- ★ All U.S. gold, especially high quality pieces

U.S. Silver Coins

- ★ All proof sets 1831-1989
- ★ All U.S. Bust coinage
- ★ U.S. Commemorative coins
- ★ Walking liberty halves, silver dollars, mercury dimes, etc. Original rolls or single specimens
- ★ All sets or part collections

Foreign Coins

- ★ Choice uncirculated world gold prior to 1933
- ★ World crown prior to 1900 in choice condition
- ★ Oriental gold coins
- ★ Quality Canadian gold
- ★ All modern foreign gold

The above is but a brief listing of our needs. If you have coins you wish to sell . . . call for an appointment. We will appraise your coins by todays market values. Prices offered depend on the type of coin, rarity and condition of the coin. We urgently need single coins, complete sets, entire collections. We'll gladly meet with you in our office, your bank or attorney's office.

Call 299-1211 for an appointment

Appraisers for banks, attorneys, trusts & estates

STEINMETZ COINS

350 Centerville Rd. — Lancaster, PA

Member of PCGS — ANA and NGCA